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Surface Transportation Board
Environmental Analysis Section
Washington, DC

Reference: Proposed Canadian National Railroad Takeover of Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway

Dear Surface Transportation Board:

Recon/Optical, Inc. is a supplier of high technology Reconnaissance and Force Protection products to the U.S. Armed Forces and U.S. Allies throughout the Free World. The Company has been in continuous operation since 1922, and has been based in Barrington, Illinois since 1960. We have some concerns regarding the proposed takeover of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern (EJ&E) Railway by the Canadian National (CN) Railway.

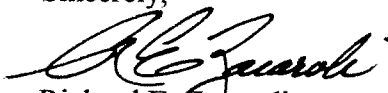
Recon/Optical is concerned that CN's planned use of the EJ&E rail lines as a Chicago bypass route for all current and future freight traffic from its Canadian and U.S. rail network will significantly increase rail traffic passing through Barrington.

Recon/Optical employs approximately 200 people in our Barrington corporate headquarters, engineering and production facilities. 60% of our employees travel to Barrington every day from the west, south and east and will be impacted by the expected increase in rail traffic. We are concerned about productivity since commuting times may be prolonged in unpredictable ways. In addition to the potential impact on productivity, we already experience some difficulty recruiting qualified employees who are willing to commute to Barrington which, for nearly all of our employees, can only be done by automobile. The expected increase in rail traffic and its adverse impact on automobile traffic may also impact the Company's ability to recruit and retain qualified employees.

As a concerned "citizen" of Barrington, the Company also shares the Village's concerns about the safety of its citizens. Over the past six months there have been several deaths in Barrington and neighboring villages along the Union Pacific Northwest Line, including the dependent son of one of our own employees this past September. With the EJ&E line in close proximity to Barrington parks, youth sports facilities and recreation areas, an increase in rail traffic may pose a significant danger, particularly to the younger citizens of Barrington.

We join our neighbors in Barrington in requesting the economic, environmental, safety and quality of life impacts be truly taken into consideration before approving the subject takeover.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Zacaroli